

Alternative landscaping requires less maintenance and water use, and creates less yard waste. It could also mean a beautiful yard that attracts birds and butterflies by providing shelter and natural food.

The typical yard consists of grass, several trees, and a flower garden. This type of landscape requires mowing, watering, and the application of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers to keep it looking its best. These cultural practices are costly and require a large time investment. Try taking a more natural approach to yard care that will reduce your inputs as well as save you time and money.

### **Natural Landscaping**

- Limit your lawn area- If you have a big yard and don't spend time in most of it, consider planting an area of prairie grasses, native shrubs, or trees in the parts you don't use often. This reduces the need for water and mowing.
- Use native species of plants that thrive in Wisconsin's habitats. They don't need to be watered or treated with pesticides.
- Choose from a variety of native grasses, trees, shrubs, or vines to design a beautiful and functional yard. Pick plants that provide food and shelter for a variety of wildlife. Choose carefully to ensure continual bloom from spring through fall while providing food for birds and animals all seasons.

### **More Alternative Landscaping Information:**

University of Wisconsin Extension [InfoSource](#)

University of Wisconsin Extension Publications  
[Landscape Plants That Attract Birds](#)

UW Extension and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
[Managing Leaves and Yard Trimmings](#)  
[Rethinking Yard Care](#)

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
So What Should I Plant? [One](#) and [Two](#)

Wild Ones  
[Landscaping with Native Plants](#)